

Sonoma Coast State Beach Public Meeting #2

Summary Notes

Date: August 28, 2003

Location: Bodega Bay Grange Hall

Total Attendees: 34 people (21 members of public, 10 DPR staff & 3 consultants)

Introductions and Presentations

Michael Stephenson, Chief Ranger Russian River District

- Welcome public to meeting.
- Introduction to the staff.
- Explanation of the purpose of general plan and mandates of PRC.

Steven Huang, EDAW

- Overview of Timeline
- Introduced Mission Statement, Goals, Vision, Purpose, Maps, Planning Concepts, etc.
- As requested by the public, pointed out specific sites on maps.

Questions and Answers

- Public asked how interim management plan developed by public advisory committee is used in planning process (Michael said it is used as background information)
- Public asked which other State park units are along the coast (Michael mentioned Fort Ross, Salt Point, Tomales)
- Public asked how alternatives will be developed (Steven said it will be based on public input from the meeting and on environmental analysis)

Public Comment Break-out Session

- Public circulated between four stations that are staffed by EDAW staff and DPR staff. One station had mission, purpose, vision, and goals. Another station had management zones and management zone matrix. A third station had potential resource management areas. The last station had potential development areas and site selection matrix.
- Public were asked to fill out comments forms that may be submitted at the meeting or mailed back. Presentation materials would be available at district office.
- Public comments below were captured on pads at each of the stations and are presented as recorded.

Public Comments on Mission, Purpose, Vision, and Goals

- Consider practicality of Goal #1 in certain situations. Parks may be proceeding too fast with eliminating European beach grass.

- All of the Park Goals should be considered in any Park action. Be careful about having one goal dominating all others. (Example: if considering removing group of trees, consider scenic impacts not just native vegetation goals).
- Include harbor seal colony/estuary at Jenner (mouth of Russian River) in the vision statement. Refer to entire ecosystem of mouth of Russian River.

Public Comments on Potential Facility Development Areas

- Passing lanes/turnout on Highway 1 for highway safety (Caltrans issue?).
- How to limit people in the State Park? By establishing carrying capacity?
- Better signage (i.e., fire hazards, litter signs, birds and wildlife).
- Improve trail signage (especially in the dunes for horse trails)
- Incorporate idea of public transportation (i.e., come to park without cars). County to provide transportation to the Park, DPR provide shuttle within the Park.
- Better siting and alternative materials for outhouses (no concrete).
- Bypass road as an alternative to Highway 1.
- Install pay toilets to offset costs of sewage treatment/transport.
- Have development area at Duncans Landing for cultural resource interpretation building.
- Wetlands in potential facility area at Willow Creek present constraints.
- Assess parking needs for all beaches and accesses.
- More restroom and water facilities.

Public Comments on Resource Management Area

- Septic problems in the Park (no sewer).
- Regional trail network should be considered.
- Current headquarter area is sensitive for Salmon Creek Estuary.
- Consider reintroduction of Roosevelt Elk.
- Use of grazing to restore coastal prairie.
- Continue to allow hang gliding in Resource management Area at Goat Rock.
- Restore and protect estuaries for native species
- Educate visitors/tourists about protocols for visiting sensitive areas and about cultural and natural resources.
- Provide docents in special areas
- Reclassify sensitive areas of significant natural and cultural resources (e.g., estuaries, Duncan's landing, etc.)
- Address water quality/polluted runoff.

Public Comments on Management Zones

- Dog walking as a recreational component.

- Hang gliding as a special use activity (by permit). Consider expansion of launch sites where appropriate (i.e., paragliding).
- Increase education regarding litter, recycling, polluted runoff, animal waste.
- Need good visitor center in Bodega Bay.
- More signage regarding litter, fire, no feeding birds/wildlife, erosion.
- Mail out info on meetings to everyone in zip codes.

Concluding Questions and Remarks

Following the break-out session, the public and the staff regrouped for the following concluding comments and questions.

- Why aren't more people at the public meeting?
- Agencies should talk to each other more.
- Is Costal Commission involved? (Yes, they have jurisdiction over state land).
- Were Native American groups contacted? (Yes, they're on the stakeholder mailing list and also contacted through Breck Parkman's personal contacts).

Individual Comment Forms

Three individual comment forms were received during the meeting. Three additional comment forms were mailed to Rick Royer in September. Below is the summary of the comments expressed on these six individual comment forms.

Individual Comments on Overall Planning Concepts	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use "green" technology for any new buildings ▪ Focus infrastructure development in Bodega Dunes area ▪ Develop Carrington property as little as possible ▪ Expand State Park to include mouth of E.A.(?) on Carrington property ▪ Restrict any new development to existing building site ▪ Add dog-walking as a recreational component ▪ Restoration, protection, and maintaining of Salmon Creek Estuary as a resource in itself ▪ Restore native plants and grasses ▪ Consider using elk for grazing management ▪ Include a full infrastructure for cyclists, including designated cyclist areas, parking facilities, and entryways into those facilities 	<div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div> <div>1</div>

Individual Comments on Resource Management Areas	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbor seal colony at mouth of Russian needs higher level of protection; sanctuary status? 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecologists should review movie permits for environmental safety 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore historic buildings and use for employee housing – thus maintaining watchful eye and caring presence 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider land east of Hwy. 1 as equally important part of the “viewshed” 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full consideration of threatened and endangered species should be given fullest priority 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance access with resource protection using informational signs, leaflets, and websites 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive displays and personnel needed 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salmon Creek estuary, Jenner estuary, and mouth of Russian Gulch should be managed for protection and enhancement of anadromous fishes 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenner and Salmon Creek estuaries should be managed for protection and enhancement of sensitive biological resources (i.e. marine mammals, resident and migratory birds). 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenner estuary speed limit (5 mph) should be part of public outreach and park staff training 	1

Individual Comments on Potential Development Areas	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meadow at Willow Creek should not be developed; includes thalweg of creek and important riparian zone 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrington property good candidate, but would require road improvements on either Coleman Valley or Hwy 1 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPR should work with Sonoma County DOT & Public Works, Stewards, and others to address fish passage in Willow Creek 	1

Individual Comments on Management Zones	Comments	Number Received
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the California Coastal Trail 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be a plan about how to acquire and manage the gaps between existing public lands 	1